

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful review of this application. Claims 21-24 have been rejected. Claims 21-23 have been amended. Claim 24 has been canceled. Claims 40-46 have been added and are fully supported by the specification. Applicant has carefully reviewed the prior art of record and believe that the newly added claims are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks submitted in support thereof.

Obviousness Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 21-23 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,762,645 to Grant and as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,388,514 to King et al. in view of Grant. As will be fully explained below, Grant and the combination of King et al. in view of Grant do not raise a *prima facie* case of obviousness against amended independent claim 21.

Independent claim 21 defines a high efficiency switching amplifier. As noted by the Applicant during an interview with the Examiner on January 26, 2006, although the applicant believes that the original pending claim defines over the prior art of record, the Applicant has amended independent claim 21 to further clarify that the isolated switching power converters are transformer-isolated. Thus, as defined in independent claim 21, the first transformer-isolated switching power converter comprises a first power-transferring transformer and bi-directional switches. The second transformer-isolated switching power converter also comprises a second power-transferring transformer and bi-directional switches.

Both Grant and King et al. do not disclose or suggest switching power converters that are transformer isolated. Additionally, in support of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections, the Examiner notes that “it is well known to employ buffers sometimes referred to a[s] drivers to isolate the switching elements of the converter from other circuitry in the arrangement” (See Final Office Action mailed November 30, 2005 at pages 3 and 5). The Examiner’s reliance on common knowledge may not be relevant in view of the amendments, but if the Examiner wishes to maintain the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections based on common knowledge, the Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s official notice and, in accordance to MPEP §2144.03, invites the Examiner to provide specific factual findings to support the Examiner’s conclusion of common knowledge.

The Examiner also requested the Applicant to point out the type of transformer-isolated switching power converters shown in Figures 11 and Figure 11B. In response, the Applicant notes that Figures 11 and 11B show two forward transformer-isolated switching power converters.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must disclose or suggest all the claim features. Here, in view of the amendments, the references as combined do not disclose all the features of the claimed embodiments. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 21 is patentable over Grant and the combination of King et al. in view of Grant. Claims 22-23, each of which depends from amended independent claim 21, are likewise patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Grant and the combination of King et al. in view of Grant for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding amended independent claim 21. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections for claims 21-23.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims 21-23 and newly added claims 40-46 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (650) 428-0313.

Respectfully submitted,
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